

ERHS Soccer, p.15



Poetry in the Garden p.13

Latest County Fire Department Meeting Brings No Reassurance

by Erica Johns



Attendees listen to a speaker at the September 12 meeting.

At a September 12 town hall officials and residents hoped for an update and more information from Prince George’s County Fire Department (PGFD) about the June 30 “temporary” removal of career firefighter and EMS staff from Greenbelt, Berwyn Heights, Bunker Hill and Bowie-Belair fire stations. County Fire Chief Tiffany Green did not attend, instead sending Fire Department Public Information Director and Chief Communication Officer

Alan Doubleday. Attendees were disappointed to hear no commitment to returning the staff and no apparent willingness to partner with the municipalities to address staffing challenges and public safety concerns. Greenbelt, Berwyn Heights and College Park leaders said they will continue asking for the county’s partnership and asked residents to contact PGFD and county leaders as well.

County Fire Dept Sends PowerPoint Charts to Answer PIA for Analysis

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

BASELINE SCENARIO										
Station	Admin	ALS	BLS	FIRE	NON	Police	Rescue	Special	Total	
811	35	6	450	1,038	263	78	38	540	77	2,525
814	49	5	993	2,093	1,123	230	63	1,410	301	6,267
831	104	4	1,141	1,908	926	245	74	1,065	199	5,666
835	90	16	1,897	458	616	201	79	1,353	175	4,885

EXCLUDE STATION 835 SCENARIO										
Station	Admin	ALS	BLS	FIRE	NON	Police	Rescue	Special	Total	
811	65	13	1,082	1,191	468	145	64	991	135	4,155
814	79	10	1,625	2,246	1,329	297	89	1,861	360	7,897
831	134	9	1,773	2,061	1,131	312	101	1,516	257	7,295
835	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

POTENTIAL CHANGE										
Station	Admin	ALS	BLS	Fire	Non	Police	Rescue	Special	Total	
811		116.7%	140.5%	14.7%	78.1%	85.9%	69.3%	83.5%	75.8%	64.6%
814	61.2%	100.0%	63.7%	7.3%	18.4%	29.1%	41.8%	32.0%	19.7%	26.0%
831	28.8%	125.0%	55.4%	8.0%	22.2%	27.3%	36.9%	42.3%	29.3%	28.8%

PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT. OBTAINED BY THE NEWS REVIEW VIA PIA

Charts provided by PGFD entitled Station 835 - Scenario Analysis. Station 811 is Branchville, Station 814 is Berwyn Heights, Station 831 is Beltsville and Station 835 is Greenbelt. PGFD has not answered the News Review’s questions about the differences between the types of calls, why some cells are highlighted or why the first column has no title indicating what the figures are for.

In July the Greenbelt News Review submitted a Public Information Act (PIA) Request for the analysis the Prince George’s County Fire Department (PGFD) has repeatedly said they conducted and used as the basis for the staffing changes but had not shared. They referenced their analysis on several occasions and specifically referred to it in the fourth, fifth and sixth points in their opposition to the City of

Greenbelt, Berwyn Heights and College Park’s Motion for Temporary and Preliminary Injunctive Relief, Case C-16-CV-24-003053. Point four in that Opposition reads: “Prior to announcing the implementation of the summer staffing plan, the Fire Department conducted an analysis to identify which four stations were eligible for reallocation based on a minimal impact on emergency service

See CHARTS, page 7

Summer 2024

On June 7, Green notified the cities that the stations’ 55 career staff would be temporarily removed on June 30 to address insufficient staffing causing extreme mandatory overtime and affecting personnel health, safety and costs. A concession followed: a career-staffed Advanced Life Support (ALS) unit would be stationed at Greenbelt Monday to Friday. Since then, PGFD reports career staff overtime has decreased and Greenbelt ALS, Fire and Rescue response times increased compared to summer 2023. Berwyn Heights Mayor Tiffany Papanikolas said their weekday coverage has fallen from nearly 100 percent to an estimated 10 percent. The move was to be reassessed in September-October.

In June, PGFD said it was short 251 career staff. The county council approved increased hiring and this year PGFD plans to

See MEETING, page 12

BREAKING NEWS

On September 17 the county’s motion to dismiss the lawsuit filed by Greenbelt, Berwyn Heights and College Park over the removal of career fire fighters was denied. Litigation will proceed.

What Goes On

Monday, September 23 7:30 p.m., City Council Meeting, Municipal Building Wednesday, September 25 7:30 p.m., Council Worksession: Prince George’s County School Board Representative, Municipal Building

See the city ad on page 5 or the meetings calendar at greenbeltnmd.gov for more information.

Greenbelt Parents Share School Transportation Experiences So Far

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

The Greenbelt News Review solicited comments from Greenbelt parents about their experiences with transportation to see how this year’s transportation changes are impacting families and students locally.

Amidst an ongoing driver shortage, Lei Zong’s children didn’t have an assigned bus driver in the mornings. A driver drops off students at Greenbelt

Elementary School and picks up students for Robert Goddard from there. Then it’s a 50-60 minute bus ride to school, arriving pretty much in time for that school’s 9:30 a.m. start. Though the afternoon bus is working well, getting them home in 20-30 minutes, rather than sending her children on the hour-long morning bus

See TRANSPORT, page 10

McCarl Dental Marks 100 Years; Four Generations of Dentistry

by Deanna Dawson



PHOTO COURTESY THE MCCARL FAMILY

Three generations of McCarls: all the dentists and other family members who worked in the family business at some point in their lives. Front row: Jim Bonham, Bobby Bonham, Phil McCarl, Clayton McCarl Jr., DDS, and Paul McCarl. Row 2: Becky (McCarl) Rogers, dental assistant; Joy (McCarl) Via, dental assistant; Sally (McCarl) Moore, dental hygienist; Kathy (McCarl) Agate, dental assistant and Jay McCarl, DDS. Row 3: Daryl (Bonham) Leach, dental assistant; Mary Jean (McCarl) Bonham, dental assistant; Delpha (Taylor) McCarl, dental assistant; Jane (Mooney) McCarl, Bettye McCarl – on her lap is David McCarl, DDS – and Jan (Bonham) Gauvain, dental assistant. Row 4: Bob Bonham, James W. McCarl, DDS; Clayton S. McCarl Sr., DDS; and J. Taylor McCarl, DDS.

The McCarl Dental Practice is celebrating the 100th anniversary of its founding. James W. McCarl started it off. He was born in Mapleton Depot, Pa., in 1895 and at age 15 went

to Washington, D.C., where he found work and finished high school. He joined the U.S. Army and served in France during

See MCCARL, page 9



PHOTO BY BARBARA BJANES

The audience at the Greenbelt Blues Festival on Saturday, Sept. 14, enjoys Bobby Thompson and The Blues City Shakedown. See page 16 for more on the Blues Festival.



# Letters to the Editor

## Keep the Spirit

It was a fun and comfortingly familiar experience to see groups of teenagers having fun at the Labor Day Festival this year. With the lack of in-person get-togethers through the pandemic years, combined with the diminishing “third place” opportunities in the area, it’s important now more than ever to have these events as a central part of the city. As a former extremely angry teenager myself, I’m keenly aware of the importance of these venues and events as antidotes to much of the stress and anxiety of those years. Furthermore, they can help as long-term solutions for the loneliness and isolation epidemics that are devastating our society.

Kudos to the Festival organizers for this, and may we continue to keep this spirit throughout the year!

Vijay Parameshwaran

## Memories to Savor

I was happily surprised to read the 1991 guidebook to the former

Soviet Union that I donated to GES PTA book sale was so well received by Calista Ausema. In August 1992 my husband and I were early American travelers to Riga, Latvia, and Tver, Russia, to visit our pen pals. We corresponded with them through the Pen Pals for Peace program started by Betty Bumpers, wife of U.S. Senator Dale Bumpers (D-Arkansas) in the late 1980s. As the Cold War thawed and we could visit ordinary citizens of the former USSR, it was a very optimistic and joyous time. I hope that someday in the future it will be that way again for the citizens of the U.S. and Russia.

Mary J. Camp

## Cartoon Reaction

Greenbelt bench with the divider designed so a person can’t sleep on it is something that catches the uncomfortable truth about this lovely place. It was Anatole France who said: “The law, in its majestic equality, forbids rich and poor alike to

See **LETTERS**, page 6

## Correction

Our story on page 6 of the September 12 issue about the Reel and Meal film and discussion series contained an incorrect email address for people to register their interest in the monthly dinner and discussion. The correct email address for Jim Fischer is [jfischer2@verizon.net](mailto:jfischer2@verizon.net).



Greenbelt Cinema  
129 Centerway  
301-329-2034  
[www.greenbeltcinema.org](http://www.greenbeltcinema.org)

Members Always \$6.50!  
Member kids are always FREE!

Adults \$9, Kids \$6,  
Senior/Student/Military \$8

All shows before 5 PM:  
Adults \$7, Kids \$5

**OC = Open Captions**  
**CC = Closed Captions**  
**DVS = Descriptive Video Service**

**SHOWTIMES:**  
**SEPTEMBER 20th- 26th**

**The Critic** (R) (CC)  
(DVS) (2024) (101 mins)  
**Screen 1** - Main Auditorium  
Fri. 5:45 PM, 8:15 PM  
Sat. 4:30 PM  
Sun. 2:30 PM (OC), 5:00 PM  
Tues. 7:30 PM

**Screen 2** - The Screening Room  
Sat. 7:15 PM  
Mon. 2:45 PM, 5:15 PM  
Wed. 7:30 PM  
Thurs. 7:45 PM

**Sugarcane** (R)  
(2024) (107 mins)  
**Screen 1** - Main Auditorium  
Mon. 2:30 PM  
**Screen 2** - The Screening Room  
Fri. 5:30 PM  
Sat. 4:45 PM  
Sun. 2:45 PM  
Tues. 7:45 PM  
Wed. 5:00 PM  
Thurs. 5:15 PM

**Kneecap** (R) (CC) (DVS)  
(2024) (105 mins)  
Irish w/ English subtitles  
**Screen 1** - Main Auditorium  
Mon. 5:00 PM  
Thurs. 5:30 PM  
**Screen 2** - The Screening Room  
Fri. 8:00 PM  
Sat. 2:15 PM  
Sun. 5:15 PM  
Tues. 5:15 PM  
Wed. 2:30 PM

**Following the Ninth** (NR)  
(2013) (90 mins)  
Thank you to members  
Nancy Laubenthal and  
Ron Zellar for sponsoring!  
**Screen 1** - Main Auditorium  
Sat. 7:00 PM

**Paul McCartney & Wings:**  
**One Hand Clapping**  
(NR) (2024) (67 mins)  
**Screen 1** - Main Auditorium  
Thurs. 8:00 PM

# Voter Registration Deadline Is Oct. 15

Tuesday, October 15 is the deadline for registering to vote in the 2024 presidential election.

Registrations must be received by the Prince George’s County Board of Elections at 1100 Mercantile Lane, Suite 115A, in Largo, no later than 4:30 p.m.

Changes to a name or address on an existing registration have the same deadline.

Call 301-341-7300 with questions.



## Letters Policy

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published).

Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.



# Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

15 Crescent Road, Suite 100, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770-1887  
Phone: 301-474-4131

[editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com) (stories, letters, photos)

[ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com) (ads)

[business@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:business@greenbeltnewsreview.com) (billing)

website: [www.greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://www.greenbeltnewsreview.com)

Presidents: Alfred M. Skolnik, 1959-1977, Elaine Skolnik, 1977-1985

Mary Lou Williamson, Editor

Anna Bedford-Dillow, Managing Editor

### STAFF

Ann Bauman, Kathryn Beard, Anna Bedford-Dillow, Judy Bell, Laura Bonkosky, Letty Bonnell, Jerry Bonnell, Alan Burt, Rasheeda Childress, Jill Connor, Maurice Crawford, Deborah Daniel, Deanna Dawson, Christine Doran, Anne Gardner, Elizabeth Gardner, Jon Gardner, Jim Giese, Ian Gleason, Patrick Gleason, Angie Gordon, Carol Griffith, Kyla Hanington, Amy Hansen, Erik Hanson, Michael Hartman, Butch Hicks, Peggy Higgins, Donna Hoffmeister, Melanie Iversen, Erica Johns, Jeff Jones, Tom Jones, Jennifer Jurling, Lesley Kash, Elisabeth Kevorkian, Amina Khalifa, Sue Krofchik, Michael Kusie, Sandra Lange, Amanda Larsen, Marcie Lissauer, Linda Lucas, Marc Manheimer, Charlene MacAdams, Cathie Meetre, Mary Moien, Elaine Nakash, Diane Oberg, Julie Rapp, Peter Reppert, Joe Robbins, Sandy Rodgers, Ian Blackwell Rogers, Lois Rosado, Richard Roth, Bonnie Schrack, Pat Scully, Bonnie Seaton, René Sewell-Raysor, David Shapiro, Melissa Sites, Lola Skolnik, Susan Taylor, Beth Terry, Daniel Thies, Nancy Tolzman, Jeff Travis, Mary Lou Williamson, Ray Zammuto and Michael Zelif.

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### PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All letters to the editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.  
OFFICE HOURS: Monday and Tuesday, 2 - 4 p.m.  
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the Municipal Building.

## On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

### The Critic

Academy Award Nominee Sir Ian McKellen (The Lord of the Rings, The Good Liar) stars as a powerful London theater critic who lures a struggling actress into a blackmail scheme with deadly consequences. A suspenseful thriller co-starring Gemma Arterton (Quantum of Solace), Mark Strong (Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy) and Lesley Manville (Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris).

### Sugarcane

A stunning tribute to the resilience of Native people and their way of life, this debut feature documentary from Julian Brave NoiseCat and Emily Kassie is an epic cinematic portrait of a community during a moment of international reckoning. In 2021, evidence of unmarked graves was discovered on the grounds of an Indian residential school run by the Catholic Church in Canada. After years of silence, the forced separation, assimilation and abuse many children experienced at these segregated boarding schools was brought to light, sparking a national outcry against a system designed to destroy Indigenous communities. Set amidst a groundbreaking investigation, the film illuminates the beauty of a community breaking cycles of intergenerational trauma and finding the strength to persevere.

### Kneecap

When fate brings Belfast schoolteacher JJ into the orbit of self-confessed “low life scum” Naoise and Liam Óg, the needle drops on a hip-hop act like no other. Rapping in their native Irish language, the members of Kneecap fast become the unlikely figure-heads of a civil rights movement to save their mother tongue. But the trio must first overcome police, paramilitaries and politicians trying to silence their defiant sound – while their anarchic approach to life often makes them their own worst enemies. In this fiercely original sex, drugs and hip-hop biopic Kneecap play themselves, laying down a global rallying cry for the defense of native cultures.

### Following the Ninth

This film highlights the impact of Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony on people’s lives around the world. Said critic Bill Stamets of the Chicago Sun-Times, “Writer-director Kerry Candaele incisively documents the ideological legacy of opus 125 in Chile, China and Germany.”

## Paul McCartney & Wings: One Hand Clapping

Directed by David Litchfield, this film captured a moment when Paul McCartney and Wings had found and defined their signature sound. Filmed over four days at Abbey Road Studios in August 1974, the film provides an insight into the inner workings of the band as they work and play together in the studio. Including performances of tracks from Wings masterpiece Band on the Run (released in 1973), intimate footage of the band hanging out in the studio, combined with audio interview snippets, the film also includes, previously unreleased in full footage, a solo acoustic performance by Paul called The Backyard Sessions. In addition to the film, this screening event includes an introduction by Paul McCartney recorded exclusively for movie theater audiences as well as newly released Polaroids of the band.



# Community Events

## Empty Bowls Event Returns to St. Hugh



Potter group members, from left: Alex Thomas, Janice Pomerantz, Yolanda Akinmola, Rachel Campbell, and Christina Guidorizzi

The Greenbelt Pottery Group led by Julie Boynton and Gina Mai Denn and St. Hugh’s Church (Ladies of Charity and Knights of Columbus) will host the Empty Bowls Event on Sunday, November 17 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. The last Empty Bowls event was in 2019.

This year the event will benefit the St. Hugh’s Food Pantry, which provides food weekly to over 60 families.

Participants can purchase a ticket for \$30 (200 tickets will be sold), select a unique hand-crafted ceramic bowl and enjoy a cup of soup, bread, drinks and dessert with others in the community. Kids 6 and under eat free. Tickets can be purchased by emailing Mary Ann Tretler at [mary\\_tretler@yahoo.com](mailto:mary_tretler@yahoo.com) or by calling 240-517-7559.

The Greenbelt Pottery Group members have been busy making over 200 ceramic pieces. They recently sponsored two bowl-making events and RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness) provided pizza, drinks and brownies for the hard-working potters.

The focus of this event is community and assisting those in need, coming together to support the St. Hugh’s Food Pantry, sharing a meal and enjoying local Greenbelt music groups. There will be additional pottery pieces available at the event for purchase for perhaps holiday gift giving.

## Cyclists, Save the Date For GHI Fall Social

Cyclists, mark those calendars: on Saturday, October 19 from 1 to 3 p.m., the GHI Bicycle Committee will hold its annual Fall Social at the GHI Building on Hamilton Place. Presentations will include a basic bicycle safety check and tips for backpacking with a bicycle. More details to follow.



## Rally to Beat Breast Cancer on October 5

Concerned about breast cancer? Come to the Let’s BEAT Breast Cancer Rally for breast cancer prevention and survival at Roosevelt Center on Saturday, October 5 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Join breast cancer survivors, community advocates and local experts; hear local drum groups; meet some Food for Life instructors and pick up some literature at the resource tables.

For more information email Geraldine Adams at [ghadams58@gmail.com](mailto:ghadams58@gmail.com). This event is sponsored by the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine.

## Contemplative Prayer At Comm. Church

A contemplative prayer group meets on Tuesdays at the Greenbelt Community Church, 1 Hillside Road, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. This is a time to pray in silence for oneself, others and the world. It nurtures inner and outer peace and reinforces the oneness of all people and creation.

The format for this group is an opening introduction, 30 minutes of silence and then some sharing. All are welcome to attend from all denominations and faith traditions. For more information, contact Patience Robbins at [patience.robbins@gmail.com](mailto:patience.robbins@gmail.com).

## Holiday Services At Mishkan Torah

Mishkan Torah invites all to join in the High Holidays this year. Come and celebrate in this warm, friendly and inclusive Jewish community. Interfaith and LGBTQ+ families are very welcome. Rosh Hashanah services will be held October 2 to 4 and Yom Kippur services October 11 to 12. Children’s services will be available. Learn more and register on the website at [MishkanTorah.org](http://MishkanTorah.org).

## Greenbelt Chess Club Meets Next Tuesday

The Greenbelt Chess Club will meet on Tuesday, September 24 at the Youth Center from 6:30 to 8:45 p.m. The club welcomes people of all ages and skill levels. Email questions to [greenbeltchessclub@gmail.com](mailto:greenbeltchessclub@gmail.com).

More Community Events are located throughout the paper.

## SCAC Hosts Open Forum September 21

The Senior Citizens Advisory Committee (SCAC) is hosting its annual Open Forum on Saturday, September 21 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. The forum will be held in the Community Center, Room 201. No registration is required. Greenbelters of all ages are welcome to attend this in-person meeting. Participants are invited to discuss what they like about living in Greenbelt and what they find are the challenges to living here. The main concerns will be reported to the city council. Members of council, the Police Department and Public Works have been invited. For transportation, consider the Greenbelt Connection bus which provides rides within Greenbelt to all residents of Greenbelt. To arrange transportation call 301-474-4100 at least 24 hours in advance. Fares each way are one dollar for senior citizens and two dollars for adults. For more information on the SCAC Open Forum, call 240-542-2189.

## At the Library

Greenbelt Library regular hours are Mondays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesdays and Wednesdays noon to 8 p.m.; Thursdays and Fridays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays 1 to 5 p.m. Face masks are recommended for all customers over the age of 2.

### Storytimes

Friday, September 20, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3, Register at [pgcmpls.info/event/11270607](http://pgcmpls.info/event/11270607).

Wednesday, September 25, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at [pgcmpls.info/event/11270462](http://pgcmpls.info/event/11270462).

### Hispanic Heritage Month

Liah Perez, Dominican-American singer and songwriter, will perform a free program on Saturday, September 28 at 2 p.m. Perez combines pop, Latin rock and ballads to perform songs for all ages that touch on love, loss, the search for home and the quest for meaning.

## Peace Month Events

Peace Month is underway. Saturday, September 21 will see a program on Peace around the World. This program is co-sponsored by multiple Greenbelt groups on International Day of Peace from 3 to 4 p.m. in Room 202 of the Community Center. And on Saturday, September 28, Miriam Pemberton will talk on Pollution and Militarism: Why We Need to Fight Both Together, from 2 to 4 p.m. in Room 201 of the Community Center.

## Dena Kohn Scholarship Fund Mini-Golf Event

On Sunday, September 22 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Dena Kohn Theatre Lab Scholarship Fund will hold a miniature golf event as a fundraiser and celebration of the life of lifelong Greenbelt Dena Kohn, who died just before her 23rd birthday.

Each year, her life and spirit of giving are celebrated and commemorated by a fundraiser for the Dena Kohn Memorial Scholarship which provides scholarships each summer to teenagers in financial need to participate in the Theatre Lab’s Musical Theatre Institute for teens.

The event will be held at Rocky Gorge Four Seasons Golf Fairway on U.S. Route 29 and Old Columbia Road, Laurel. Attendees can buy baked goods from a Greenbelt baker and original pottery by a Greenbelt potter at the event.

Those wishing to sponsor a hole, play a round, make a donation or ask questions, can call Niki Kohn at 301-474-8423 or email [nikiekohn@gmail.com](mailto:nikiekohn@gmail.com).

## Stamp Out Hunger Close to Home

The final September food collections for Greenbelt PORCH are as follows:

Sunday, September 22 – by 4 p.m. for 9, 11, 12 and 13 Courts Ridge Road; by 5 p.m. for Lakeside Drive.

## Celebrate College Park Day Saturday, October 5

College Park Day is on Saturday, October 5 from noon to 6 p.m. at the College Park Aviation Museum and Airport. This annual festival has free activities and entertainment for all ages. This year there will be live entertainment on two stages, plus a community performance area. On the main stage, local bands will play live music; the family stage features fun for children and families. The new community performance area will highlight local cultural dances and traditions throughout the day. In addition, there will be wandering performers, crafts, activities, games, races, bounce houses, obstacle courses and so much more. Aviation enthusiasts of all ages will enjoy browsing the College Park Aviation Museum’s exhibits (for free on College Park Day) and a helicopter fly-in. The event features a wide variety of food and drink vendors with local restaurants, food trucks and breweries in attendance. Free parking will be available nearby, along with a free shuttle service from select locations, and bike racks. The event site is minutes away walking from the College Park-UMD Metro Station. For more information including parking, performance schedules and more, visit [collegeparkday.org](http://collegeparkday.org). Hosted by the City of College Park. See ad on p. 8 for more details.

## Campfire Programs At Greenbelt Park

Saturday, September 21 at 7 p.m., Campfire Program: All About Owls. Join an exciting night at the Greenbelt Park campfire circle to learn all about owls. Liz Dennison from the Secret Garden of Birds and Bees will be bringing in several owls for all to see and learn about. This is a chance to see the owls up close and take great photos. Meet at 7 p.m. in the Campfire Circle in B loop of the campground. For more information, call 771-208-1588 or check the park’s website, [nps.gov/gree](http://nps.gov/gree).

### Greenbelt Access Television

**Sept 21, Sat - Sept 27, Fri**  
Verizon FIOS Channel 19 • Comcast 77  
(School Programming on Your Cable Guide)  
Streaming on [www.greenbeltaccessstv.org](http://www.greenbeltaccessstv.org)

**THIS WEEK on GATE • Your Community Access Station**  
Featured Film (9am, 3pm, and 8pm)  
**A Teachable Moment (2018)**  
This film, a 2018 Utopia Film Festival selection, tells the story of four people who, after each having survived a stroke, search for their new normal.

New This Month  
**Greenbelt Labor Day Parade Highlights**  
Marching bands, dogs, dance routines, dogs, fancy cars, dogs, and more! Tune in to see our favorite moments from this year’s (and Greenbelt’s 70th annual) Labor Day Parade!

All this and more on the GATe channel this week! Check [greenbeltaccessstv.org](http://greenbeltaccessstv.org) for the full broadcast schedule, and visit [Greenbelt Access Television on YouTube](http://Greenbelt Access Television on YouTube) for new video productions.

## This Week at the New Deal Café

SUPPORT Greenbelt’s only venue with BOTH dinner AND a show!

113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD  
Mon/Wed/Th 8am - 9pm; Tues 8am - 9:30pm; Friday/Saturday 8am – 10pm;  
Sunday 9am – 9pm, UNLESS NOTED.

TH 9/19	FRI 9/20	SAT 9/21	SUN 9/22	
<b>FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm</b> <b>CD RELEASE PARTY W/ LYNN HOLLYFIELD 7-9pm</b> New album: “Look Up”	<b>The Marsh Brothers Band 7-10pm</b> A tasty blend of rock, blues, reggae and country	<b>POETRY OPEN MIC, 1-3pm</b> <b>Proverbs Reggae Band 7-10pm</b> Unique roots-reggae band	<b>DEAF BRUNCH, 10:30am-12pm</b> <b>Kim’s Grand Rounds - A Songwriters’ Circle 6-8pm</b> Talented songwriters take turns performing	
MON 9/23	TUES 9/24	WED 9/25	TH 9/26	SPECIALS!
<b>DRAG BINGO 7-9pm</b> A night of drag and free unlimited bingo!	<b>NDC Open Mic w/ Carla Monardes 6:30-9:30pm</b> Sign-ups at 6:15pm.	<b>Charlotte Morris 7-9pm</b> Nashville-based singer-songwriter	<b>FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm</b> <b>Susan Jones Jazz Quartet 7-9pm</b> Violin-led jazz plays swing and bossa nova	<b>HAPPY HOUR 4-7pm</b> \$1 OFF BEER AND WINE <b>WEDNESDAY</b> \$1 OFF PER GLASS <b>\$5 OFF A BOTTLE</b>

Join NDC! Go to [NewDealCafe\(dot\)com](http://NewDealCafe(dot)com), click on “ABOUT”, then “BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW.”  
FUNDING FOR THESE ADS PROVIDED BY A GENEROUS DONOR.

**THE NDC NEEDS YOUR VOLUNTEER TIME ON COMMITTEES.**  
**Contact: [jbelltower@yahoo.com](mailto:jbelltower@yahoo.com). We promise: It won’t hurt!**



# Obituaries

## John A. Schaffer



Lieutenant Colonel (Retired)  
John A. Schaffer

On September 10, 2024, John Albert Schaffer of Kensington died peacefully at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Schaffer was born October 29, 1935, in Clarksburg, W.V., to his late parents Albert and Margaret Schaffer.

When John was 2, his family moved to Washington, D.C., and then to Greenbelt, where he was raised. He attended Northwestern High School in Hyattsville and was elected senior council president. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1958 and served honorably in the U.S. Army for 22 years. This included two Vietnam tours and eight years in the Far East, commanding airborne infantry units and becoming a China specialist for the U.S. Army, having learned Mandarin Chinese, which he spoke at a high level. He retired as an LTC in 1980 after settling in New Carrollton and serving his final assignments at the Pentagon.

John then established a trade consultancy that included five trade trips to China to represent U.S. firms, was active in local politics, elected to seven two-year terms on the New Carrollton City Council from 1993 to 2007 and devoted most of his spare

time to playing golf. He was a past president of the Ft. Meade Military Officers Association of America, a member of the Maryland Interleague Senior Golf Association and a longtime member of the Greenbelt Community Church UCC. In 2011, he and his wife Laura moved to Kensington, where they settled in with a beautiful community of neighbors and friends.

John is survived by his wife of 37 years, Laura C. Schaffer, the former Tang Lezhi from Beijing, China. He was pre-deceased by one daughter, Pamela J. Schaffer, in 2015 and survived by three children: Donna Boston (Hank Lobe) of Annapolis, John Schaffer, Jr. (Christine) of Columbia and Tanya Asman (Barry) of Davidsonville; 11 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and a sister, Diane Schaffer Coon (Charles) of Colorado Springs, Colo.

The family will welcome visitors to a viewing at Collins Funeral Home, 500 University Blvd. West, Silver Spring, on Thursday, September 26 from 2 to 4 p.m. A Celebration of Life service and reception will be held at Greenbelt Community Church on Friday afternoon, September 27, starting at 2 p.m. The burial and military service will be held in about five months at the Arlington National Cemetery, at a date to be determined.

– Donna Schaffer Boston

## In Memoriam

# Remembering Ric Gordon

by Matthew Inzeo

I am writing to express my deepest condolences on the passing of my friend and City Councilmember Ric Gordon, a dedicated public servant whose legacy will continue to inspire our community. As we approach his birthday on September 19, it is a poignant moment to reflect on his incredible contributions to our city.

Ric Gordon was more than just a councilmember; he was a true advocate for the people of Greenbelt. His unwavering commitment to enhancing our community was evident in every project he championed and every issue he tackled. From his tireless efforts in promoting sustainable development to his heartfelt dedication to improving local services, Ric's impact on our city was profound.

His ability to listen, passion for inclusive governance and genuine care for every resident's welfare made him a cherished leader. Ric's work not only shaped the present but laid the groundwork for a brighter future

for Greenbelt. His legacy will be remembered in the many positive changes he helped bring about and in the enduring spirit of the community he fostered.

As we remember Ric on what would have been his birthday, let us honor his memory by continuing to work toward the ideals he so fervently believed in. May we strive to embody his dedication, compassion and vision in our efforts to improve our city.

Our thoughts are with Ric's family, friends and all who were touched by his remarkable life and work.



Our condolences to the friends and family of original Greenbelter John Schaffer, who died on September 10 after a long career serving our country, followed by an active retirement.

Our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of longtime Greenbelter, Frederick Anthony (Tony) McCarthy, who died September 12 in Portsmouth, N.H. A celebration of life is planned for Monday, September 30 at 11 a.m. at the Greenbelt Community Church.

Congratulations to the McCarl Dental Practice on 100 years of business serving the Greenbelt community.

Send details of your news to [editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com).

“Regard ye the world as a man’s body, which is afflicted with divers ailments, and the recovery of which dependeth upon the harmonizing of all its component elements.”  
– Bahá’u’lláh



**Greenbelt Bahá’í Community**

[www.greenbeltbahais.org](http://www.greenbeltbahais.org)

## The Bible Says...

The Ten Commandments  
#2-Have No Idols  
An idol is anything that takes God’s #1 place.  
Exodus 20:4-6



**Sunday Worship Services**  
10a-11:15a @ Greenbelt Elementary School  
(66 Ridge Rd.)  
**MCFcc.org**

## Mishkan Torah Congregation



10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770  
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

*An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.*

Friday evening services at 8:00pm  
Saturday morning services at 10:00am  
Offering hybrid services, online and in-person activities  
For further information, call (301) 474-4223 [www.mishkantorah.org](http://www.mishkantorah.org)  
Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

## CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GREENBELT MASS

Sunday 10:00 a.m.  
City Council Room  
25 Crescent Rd

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

OR - Join us on ZOOM!  
For ZOOM link:  
[CCG1985+owner@groups.io](mailto:CCG1985+owner@groups.io)

[cathcomgreenbelt.org](http://cathcomgreenbelt.org)

## Greenbelt BAPTIST CHURCH

Christ-centered  
Biblical  
& Reformed

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am

Sunday School 9:15am

Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00pm

101 Greenhill Rd. Greenbelt, MD  
[www.greenbeltbaptist.org](http://www.greenbeltbaptist.org)



## Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

Open hearts, Open Minds, Open doors

Find us on [facebook.com/mowattumc](https://www.facebook.com/mowattumc)

301-474-5410

Pastor Evelyn Romero

**Worship Service, Sundays 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.**  
**Celebrate hope with us.**



## The Bus

Seniors, Children with School ID  
and Customers with  
Disabilities **RIDE FREE**

## St. John's Episcopal Church

11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20704  
301-937-4292 [www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org](http://www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org)

Welcomes you each Sunday for  
Worship & Sunday School  
at 10:00 AM

## Greenbelt Community Church

One Hillside Road

We are an  
Open and Affirming  
Church



Join Us Sunday  
10:15 AM  
for Worship  
and Church School

[www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD](https://www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD)  
[www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org](http://www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org)

## ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am\*, Sat 9am\*
- Sunday Mass:
  - Sat vigil 5pm\*
  - Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am
- Confessions Saturday 3pm – 4pm.  
Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

\*Live streamed on Facebook and available on our YouTube page later.

**CELEBRATE WITH US**

135 Crescent Rd.

[www.sthughofgrenoble.org](http://www.sthughofgrenoble.org)



## Holy Cross Lutheran Church -Missouri Synod- 6905 Greenbelt Road

SUNDAY  
Divine Service:

9:30am

Fellowship/Bible Study:  
11:00am



**LITURGICAL**  
**SACRAMENTAL**  
**BIBLICAL**



## Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

Postal address: P.O. Box 676, Laurel, MD 20725  
Phone: 301-937-3666 [www.pbuuc.org](http://www.pbuuc.org)



Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community



September 22, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.  
**Tough Love**

Anthony Jenkins with Worship Associate Carol Boston

Love is patient and kind....sometimes? In the spirit of our September theme (Love) and the fall equinox, we'll shine some light on the 'shadow work' of tough love. Together we'll consider the more 'nosy' (and less cozy) expressions of love in our personal lives – when love is the social justice that balances our families, friendships, and relationships.

Streaming on PBUUC's Facebook page, on Zoom, and in person. Worship service held at University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD





# City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

## GREENBELT CITY CALENDAR

Be sure to check out the City calendar for all up to date events at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar).



### GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING Monday, September 23, 2024 at 7:30 pm

#### ORGANIZATION

Call to Order  
Roll Call  
Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag  
Petitions and Requests  
Consent Agenda - Approval of Staff Recommendations (Items on the Consent Agenda [marked by \*] will be approved as recommended by staff, subject to removal from the Consent Agenda by Council.)  
Approval of Agenda and Additions

#### COMMUNICATIONS

##### Presentations

- Breast Cancer Awareness Month
- National Hispanic Heritage Month Proclamations
- Public Hearing - All-Resident Voting

##### \* Minutes

##### - Administrative Reports

##### \* Committee Reports

\* Advisory Committee on Education Report #24-02 ACE Grants

##### Final Report

#### LEGISLATION

- An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 8, "Elections" of the Greenbelt City Code, in Order to Amend Section 8-2 "Voter Registration" to Allow Noncitizen Residents of the City of Greenbelt to Vote in the City of Greenbelt Elections - 2nd Reading and Adoption
- A Resolution to Repeal, Re-Enact, and Amend City Charter Section 15, "Voters"; Section 18, "Registration for Election; Universal Registration"; Section 19, "Registration"; Section 26, "Voter Identity"; Section 33, "Appeals"; to Allow Noncitizen Residents to Vote in Local City Elections -2nd Reading and Adoption
- Resolution to Establish Charter Review Taskforce -1st Reading

#### OTHER BUSINESS

- Authorization of Engine Replacement or the Purchase of New Vehicle to Replace Vehicle 607
- Police Vehicles Upfitting
- Council Activities
- Council Reports
- \* Meetings
- \* Stakeholders
- \* Authorizing the City Manager to Execute Contract with SEPCO for Solar Lighting and Bus Shelters
- \* Authorizing the City Manager to Execute Contract with Tristar Construction for the Construction of Bus Shelters
- \* Authorizing the City Manager to Execute Contract with Next Day Concrete for Concrete Work to Support Improvements at Bus Stops
- \* Resignation/Appointment to Advisory Board

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email [banderson@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:banderson@greenbeltmd.gov).

This agenda is subject to change. For the most up-to-date agenda, visit [www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipalTV](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipalTV) or call (301) 474-8000.

#### AGING SOLO

Tuesdays, October 8 - November 12 / 11-12:30 pm, via Zoom

This nationally awarded program focuses on taking charge of your aging. Aging Solo will help you reflect on priorities, map out support networks, and put plans into place as you age.

To register, contact Brendy Garcia at [bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov) or (240) 424-0302.

#### ANNUAL OPEN FORUM

Hosted by the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee  
Saturday, September 21, 1 - 2:30 pm

Greenbelt Community Center, Room 201, 15 Crescent Road

Join us this Saturday as we hold an open forum for residents to discuss questions on benefits and challenges of living in Greenbelt. Main comments will be reported to City Council by the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee.

Need transportation? Consider the Greenbelt Connection Bus, providing service within Greenbelt and available to all residents. To arrange transportation, please call (301) 474-8000 at least 24 hours in advance. Fares each way are \$1 for senior citizens, \$2 for adults.

Greenbelters of all ages are welcome. For more information, call (240) 542-2189.

#### FEATURED PETS

##### AMETHYST

Ready for Adoption?

Call (301) 474-6124

1-year-old Amethyst had the BEST TIME EVER at Pooch Plunge a few weeks ago! She made friends with just about every dog there, swam in a big pool (an upgrade from her kiddie pool), and looked all-around stylish in her orange life jacket. Amethyst is currently in a foster home, and her foster parents say she's a delight to host. She's great with other dogs and people, eager to learn new tricks (and potty trained!), and great on walks.

If you're interested in adopting the amazing Amethyst, call (301) 474-6124 or email us at [animalservices@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:animalservices@greenbeltmd.gov)!



#### MEETINGS FOR SEPTEMBER 16-20

Thursday, September 19 at 7 pm, **COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD**

#### MEETINGS FOR SEPTEMBER 23-27

Tuesday, September 24 at 3:30 pm, **SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**, On the Agenda: Approval of Minutes/Agenda, Discuss Annual Open Forum

Tuesday, September 24 at 7:30 pm, **GREEN ACES & GREEN TEAM**, On the Agenda: EV Event in Greenbelt Center, Sustainable Land Care/Pollinators Circle Updates, Buddy Attick Park Master Plan (Send Comments), Time Bank Circle, Curbside Compost Pickup Grant Updates, Canyon Creek Discussion

Wednesday, September 25 at 7:30 pm, **WORK SESSION - PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVE**

Thursday, September 26 at 5:30 pm, **BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

Thursday, September 26 at 7 pm, **FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD**, On the Agenda: Recommendation for Trail in Sunrise Tract, Northwestern Eagle Bridge and Canyon Creek Trail Rerouting, Outreach Planning Banner Design and Green Man Festival, Stewardship Updates and Discussion, Possible Additional Signage at the Northway Entrance, Grenbriar Preserve Outreach to Condos/ERHS

In advance, the hearing impaired are advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email [banderson@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:banderson@greenbeltmd.gov). This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar).



#### PUBLIC HEARING ON ALL-RESIDENT VOTING



A public hearing will be held **Monday, September 23, 2024** during the Regular Meeting of the Greenbelt City Council on the City's all-resident voting initiative.

This meeting will be hybrid and can be attended in-person in the Council Chambers, Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road, 20770 or via Zoom. The meeting will also be livestreamed at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipalTV](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipalTV), [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/greenbeltmd), and [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/greenbeltmd).

Please note that comments can be made in-person or via email. Please email your comments to [council@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:council@greenbeltmd.gov).

#### INTRODUCTION TO BIRDING

Saturday, September 21, 8 - 10 am

Buddy Attick Lake Park

Have you ever wanted to try birding but don't know where to begin? Join Environmental Coordinator Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll and the Greenbelt Park Rangers for an introductory tour around Greenbelt Lake. We will go over keys to bird identification, choosing and using binoculars, as well as using different mobile apps in the field.

To register, visit <https://ow.ly/eLoR50TkITM>.

#### NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY

SEPTEMBER 28, 10 AM - 1 PM

Greenbelt Forest Preserve - Hamilton Tract

This year's theme for National Public Lands Day is "Together for Tomorrow" and the City of Greenbelt is inviting you to work together with the Department of Public Works and the Forest Preserve Advisory Board to steward the environment so that it can be enjoyed for generations to come! Lend a hand as we continue our project to remove invasive bush honeysuckle from the forest preserve understory near the Northway Ballfields.

Register by email at [kdriscoll@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:kdriscoll@greenbeltmd.gov).

#### ANNAPOLIS NAVY YARD TOUR

Thursday, September 29 / 9 am - 3 pm

60+ Only; R: \$55, NR: \$65

Ride the Yard: GEM Car Tour! Cruise through the Yard in one of their five-passenger electric vehicles and take in all the sites and history that the Naval Academy has to offer. See the Yard in style with our GEM tour in a comfortable, five-passenger electric vehicle, which highlights the "gems" of the Naval Academy. Lunch will be provided by Greenbelt Recreation.

478203-1: Thursday, 9/26. 9 am- 3:30 pm R: \$55, NR: \$65

#### ACTIVE AGING WEEK

September 30 - October 6

Active Aging Week is an annual event that promotes healthy and active lifestyles among older adults. Organized by the International Council on Active Aging (ICAA), the week-long event aims to dispel the myths of aging, encourage the 50+ population to adopt a healthier lifestyle, and showcases the benefits of stay physically, socially, and mentally active as people age.

Keep an eye out for events during Active Aging Week 2024!

For details, please contact Priya Gardner Lemieux at [pgardner@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:pgardner@greenbeltmd.gov).

#### BUDDY ATTICK PARK DRAFT MASTER PLAN WORK SESSION

Wednesday, October 16, 7:30 pm

Greenbelt Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road

The Buddy Attick Park (BAP) Draft Master Plan can be viewed online at <https://www.greenbeltmd.gov/BAPMP>.

A City Council Work Session is scheduled for Wednesday, October 16 at 7:30pm in the Greenbelt Municipal Building (25 Crescent Road). The City Council Work Session is open to the public. If you would like to provide written feedback, please send your comments to [BAPproject@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:BAPproject@greenbeltmd.gov) by Friday, October 4, 2024.

### PUBLIC STATEMENT REGARDING PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FIRE/EMS SUMMER STAFFING PLAN FOR GREENBELT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

**Greenbelt, MD** - The City of Greenbelt is disappointed in the County's decision to reassign 24 career personnel from Greenbelt Station 835 on July 1, resulting in the removal of all career personnel from our Station. County Fire Chief Tiffany Green and County leadership ordered the redeployment of 55 career firefighters from Berwyn Heights, Greenbelt, Bunker Hill, and Bowie Station. We are gravely concerned with the impact in response times of emergencies in Greenbelt and our surrounding areas.

Greenbelt will continue to work in tandem with College Park and Berwyn Heights alongside County leadership in addressing our concerns and fighting for the City of Greenbelt.

#### WHO CAN I CONTACT?

##### Office of the County Executive

[countyexecutive@co.pg.md.us](mailto:countyexecutive@co.pg.md.us)  
(301) 952-4131

##### Office of the County Fire Chief

[tdgreen@co.pg.md.us](mailto:tdgreen@co.pg.md.us)  
(301) 883-5200

##### At-Large County Council Member Hawkins

[At-LargeMemberHawkins@co.pg.md.us](mailto:At-LargeMemberHawkins@co.pg.md.us)  
(301) 952-2195

##### County Council Member District 4

[councildistrict4@co.pg.md.us](mailto:councildistrict4@co.pg.md.us)  
(301) 952-3094

Letters of Support to keep/return career staffing to Greenbelt Station 835 can be sent to:

City of Greenbelt, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 or [council@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:council@greenbeltmd.gov).

#### ONLINE BILL PAY

The City of Greenbelt launched online bill pay services on Tuesday, September 3, 2024. Residents are now able to pay their bills via check, bank transfer, debit card, or credit card.

To find out more information and to sign-up, visit [ow.ly/Jo9450TaHTH](http://ow.ly/Jo9450TaHTH).

#### COMMITTEES & BOARDS VACANCIES VOLUNTEER TODAY!

Volunteering for City of Greenbelt Committees & Boards is an excellent opportunity to engage with your community and make a difference. Choose from a number of committees & boards such as the **Advisory Committee on Trees**, **Senior Citizens Advisory Committee**, the **Youth Advisory Committee**, or the **Advisory Committee on Education**, Arts Advisory Board, Board of Elections, Community Relations Advisory Board, Employee Relations Advisory Board, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, or the Park and Recreation Advisory Board and make a difference in Greenbelt!

Take the first step towards making a positive impact and apply for one of these committee vacancies today!

Call (301) 474-8000.



# Letters continued from p.2

sleep under bridges, to beg in the streets and to steal their bread.” Greenbelt is a small island of 1950-60 civility in a large sea of social changes ... and the contradictions the changes have brought with them.

Greenbelt supports immigrants but immigration means more people competing for a limited supply of housing. Thus housing prices go up and the least organized and competent Americans become homeless and are likely to end up sleeping on benches and in little tents.

Deinstitutionalization in the 1960s eliminated the possibility of holding people against their will, which is good. But many of the homeless are using drugs, mentally ill or “off their meds” so the person sleeping on the bench is statistically more likely than the average person to be unpredictable and possibly violent. We want to help, but we also want to walk to the Co-op in safety at 8 p.m.

We have a great little newspaper which tells the sad truth; it lists all Greenbelt crimes by general location. GHI is a quiet 1950s neighborhood; the rest of the City of Greenbelt isn’t.

And, unfortunately, there is nothing we can do to change anything in the two previous paragraphs.

So I look at the benches and know what it means. And I, for one, am glad that the dividers are there ... not comfortable, but I understand.

David B. Miller

## Join a Club

Kudos to the Greenbelt Cinema for bringing the film *Join or Die* to Greenbelt on the International Day of Democracy, September 15 for its national premiere. The film is about how Robert Putnam traced the decline of democratic institutions and trust in government (first in Italy and then in the U.S.) to the decline of people joining clubs and social societies. As individuals disconnected from social groups, the bonds of community and trust became eroded. Putnam traced declines of this social capital – the connections within community across membership in social clubs and associations starting in the 1960s across distrust and dysfunction in government, polarization and actual human loneliness. The more clubs neighbors join, the better functioning their democratic institutions and literally, the longer their lifespans. It’s true: joining one club this year can increase your lifespan by 50 percent. But Putnam and colleagues also documented the upswing that occurred in the early 1900s when communities just decided to start and join clubs to build social capital when it was at its lowest. This summer the city’s Community Relations Advisory Group worked with the city to consolidate a group of clubs in Greenbelt, starting with city recognized groups. Many of you might remember this listing used to be published in the Rec Guide in Greenbelt years ago. It’s not

perfect, but it’s a place to start. Check out the listing online at [greenbeltmd.gov/government/departments-con-t/recreation-parks/clubs-and-contacts](http://greenbeltmd.gov/government/departments-con-t/recreation-parks/clubs-and-contacts).

This election season, you should, of course, register to vote. But you should also join a club here in your local community. Connecting to each other is how we as a community can emerge stronger, happier and more resilient for the future.

Melissa Ann Ehrenreich



Elizabeth Walker’s floral arrangement won a purple ribbon at the Retro Town Fair.



Retro Town Fair  
2024 Winners List

by Sheila Maffay-Tuthill

**Flower and Vegetable Contest**  
**Floral Arrangements**  
Purple Ribbon - Elizabeth Walker  
Blue Ribbon - Mary Lou Williamson  
Red Ribbon - Ignacio Perez  
White Ribbons - Prisca Mpanda/Mike Reinsel, Raven Holm  
**Vegetables**  
Blue Ribbons - Maggie Cornett, Prisca Mpanda/Mike Reinsel, Robert Trumble (3), Marnie Siegel, Petra Sanchez, Bonnie Schrack, Julia Shapiro, Charlotte Shomburger, Prisca Mpanda (2)  
Red Ribbon - Bonnie Schrack  
White Ribbon - Mike Reinsel  
**Canned Goods**  
Blue Ribbons - Jessica Blacksten, Robert Trumble  
Red Ribbons - Petra Sanchez, Marni Siegel  
White Ribbons - Vijay Parameshwaran, Haven Carlson  
**Crafts**  
Blue Ribbons - Julia Shapiro, Raven Holm, Petra Sanchez, Corrina Sowden  
**Baked Goods**  
Purple Ribbons - Maggie Brown and Karen Knee, Rita Sayer, Stephanie Burrows, Carrie Hannigan, Raven Holm  
Blue Ribbons - JoEllen Sarff, Stephanie Burrows, Julia Shapiro, Casey Stoyall-Mulholland, Alec Armstrong  
Red Ribbons - Emily Ottens, Donna Peterson, Judy Parker, Olivia Guerrieri, Ellie Rinehart, Kathy Labukas (2), Kim Kash, Vijay Parameshwaran, Marni Ewell Siegel  
White Ribbons - Donna Peterson, Watson Blacksten, Julia Kender  
**Needlework**  
Purple Ribbons - Brianne Boylan, Cathy Jones, Pat Scully, Eileen Sutker, Corrina Sowden, Jessica Shen  
Blue Ribbons - Marni Ewell Siegel (2), Cathy Jones, Helen Chang, Joan Conway, Pat Holobaugh  
Red Ribbons - Bernadette Williams, Ashley Sink, Anna Dahlen, Joan Conway  
White Ribbons - Whitley Sink, Julia Kender



# Greenbelt Community Foundation



## Fall 2024 Grant Cycle Deadline October 15

This may be the last grant cycle for the GCF\*, so if you’ve been thinking about applying for a grant, don’t put it off any longer. There will be a Zoom-based grant workshop session on Tuesday, September 24, at 7 pm. If you want to participate, RSVP to [greenbeltcommunityfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:greenbeltcommunityfoundation@gmail.com) Visit <https://greenbeltfoundation.org/> for more information.

\* Come 2025, unless something changes, there will no longer be enough board members for the GCF to operate. If you’d like to help change that and join us (in the immortal words of Charles Schulz) as being great philanthropists with other people’s money, contact us at [greenbeltcommunityfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:greenbeltcommunityfoundation@gmail.com)



CHARTS continued from page 1

delivery. The analysis utilized historical incident data from the calendar year 2023 and a drive-time analysis from the closest surrounding stations which would respond to the area.”

To fulfill the News Review’s Public Information Act Request for this analysis, the PGFD provided PowerPoint slides dated March, which contain maps of stations with three-mile and eight-minute circumferences charted and charts showing which nearby stations could answer the stations’ calls if their career fire-fighters were pulled. In particular they present data showing the possible impact of the removal of Greenbelt, Berwyn Heights, Bunker Hill and Bowie (Belair) separately on their nearby stations. Notably, in the analysis of the removal of Greenbelt, Berwyn Heights is among those shown to take up increased calls as a neighboring station and in the analysis for Berwyn Heights, Greenbelt is shown among the nearby impacted stations. No analysis was shared that considers the removal of the two stations together, which is what took place.

The News Review sought clarification of the charts’ information, which included highlighting without explanation of its meaning, for example, and no narrative analysis. In August, Public Information Officer (PIO) Alan Doubleday said questions would have to go through the legal office due to the PIA. On September 3 Associate County Attorney Melisha Neal responded to the News Review that our questions are no longer related to the PIA and have been forwarded to Assistant Fire Chief Ernest Lindqvist. The News Review has received no communication from Lindqvist and calls to PIO Doubleday have gone unanswered and voicemails unreturned. Of the charts provided, the first uses Euclidean distance to show 1-3 miles of neighboring fire departments around Greenbelt Fire station that could respond to calls. The Euclidian distance places Beltsville within 3 miles though other maps suggest if the fire engines travel by roads Beltsville’s station is a distance of at least 3.8 miles away. The three neighboring stations included in that map are Berwyn Heights, Branchville and Beltsville.

The second chart shows eight-minute drive coverage provided by Greenbelt VFD. The circles represent calls the fire department responded to within eight minutes. The purple, green and blue colored areas suggest other stations that could respond to those calls within eight minutes are, again, Branchville (Station 811). Berwyn Heights (814), whose firefighters were simultaneously removed, and Beltsville (831). The eight-minute coverage appears to be calculated by distance from the various fire stations, presuming engines are available there to respond.

The scenario analysis chart shows most clearly who the PGFD expects to respond to the calls in place of Greenbelt fire-fighters. Beltsville fire department is presumed to be operating as normal, prior to the removal of their firefighters, in this model. The change is greatest for 811, which represents Branchville Volunteer Fire Department and shows a projected overall increase

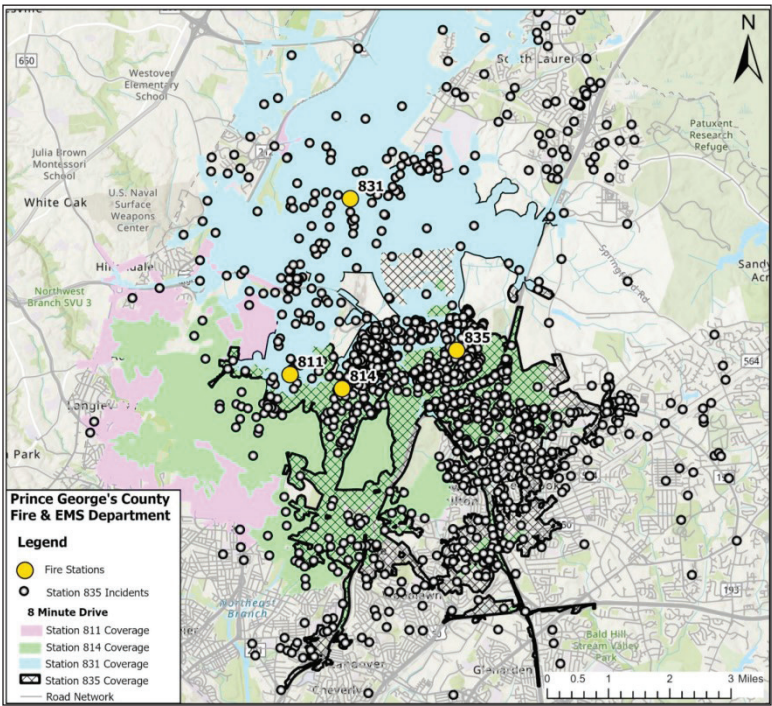
of over 64 percent and over 140 percent increase in the area of Advanced Life Support (ALS), going from 450 such calls to 1,082. Berwyn Heights is also projected to see an increase of calls in the amount of 26 percent “total change,” as well as a 63.7 percent increase in ALS. In the baseline scenario, Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department (Station 835) fielded the greatest number of ALS calls of the four stations and the most Admin and Police calls. Greenbelt is listed as having almost as many Rescue calls as Berwyn Heights. The first column in the charts for the two scenarios and the chart for the change contain figures but no label to indicate what they are. PGFD has not responded to explain the differences between the types of calls.

**Unanswered Questions**

Among our unanswered questions: Was similar analysis to that shared for the four stations done for other stations not ultimately removed in order to select which ones would be removed, or was analysis only done on these four stations? Charts show increases to other neighboring stations when removal of one is modeled but do not share analysis of what that means in the department’s decision-making process. Did the department have in mind any levels of increase or other parameters that would have been too great for another station to take on?

In the scenarios showing the impact of removing Greenbelt the impact is shared among neighboring stations, including Berwyn Heights. Likewise, the scenarios for Berwyn Heights show Greenbelt among those taking up their calls. Was any study done of the impact of removing both stations?

The News Review continues to seek the analysis that was used to select Greenbelt and the other stations for the removal of their career firefighters and the answers to our requests for information.



A map provided by PGCFD entitled 8-Minute Drive Coverage Area of the Stations. Station 811, whose coverage area is purple represents Branchville, Station 814 in green is Berwyn Heights, Station 831 in blue is Beltsville and Station 835 with a checkered pattern represents Greenbelt. The circles represent incidents Greenbelt VFD responded to in 2023. The 8-minute drive time for other stations to respond to those incidents seems based on the location of their stations and presuming engines are available and located at them.

**Toastmasters Meet**

The Greenbelt Toastmasters Club invites all to join them online every first, third and fifth Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. The club provides a fun and friendly environment for anyone interested in improving their public speaking and leadership skills. Learn more at [greenbelt.toastmastersclubs.org](http://greenbelt.toastmastersclubs.org).

**Donate Sneakers For People in Need**

Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ (GCC) is collecting athletic shoes by partnering with GotSneakers. This sneaker recycling program helps to keep sneakers out of landfills, where they have harmful effects on the environment. A donation box is located outside the Fellowship Center (the small building behind the church) for people to drop off sneakers at any time.

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## Kick Gas

## Go Electric

**What:** Greenbelt's 3rd annual Electric Vehicle Event  
Free Admission

**When:** Sun., 9/22, 12 noon-3pm

**Where:** In the Greenbelt Library parking lot

**Talk with local Electric Vehicle (EV) owners\***

See both all-battery and plug-in hybrid cars, and e-bikes, and ask about their EV experiences, EV costs, driving and charging an EV, types of EV chargers, rebates, etc.

\*If you are an EV owner and would like to show your vehicle or talk to visitors, email John Lippert at [ecolivingmag@aol.com](mailto:ecolivingmag@aol.com)

This Event is sponsored by Greenbelt's Green Team, Green ACES, & the City of Greenbelt.

**Green ACES**  
Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability

**Senior Nutrition Program Luncheon**

The Senior Nutrition Food and Friendship program provides lunch for seniors Monday through Friday at the Community Center beginning at 11:30 a.m. Meals must be reserved two weeks ahead so that enough food is ordered. Participants must complete a registration form in person at the Community Center office, Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. There is a suggested donation. Call 301-397-2208, ext. 4215 with questions.

Two menu options, one vegetarian, will be offered for each luncheon. All meals, which provide at least one third of recommended dietary allowances for older adults, include margarine, coffee or tea and skim milk.

**Français, s'il vous plaît: French at the Café**

A group of people interested in speaking French meets at the New Deal Café every Thursday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. All ages, all levels of fluency are welcome.

## New Greenbelt Listings

**8104 Craddock Rd. \$600,000**

4 BR | 3.5 BA. This gracious Greenbelt colonial home is available for the first time since it was built. Priced to sell quickly, so call your agent!

**65J Ridge Rd. \$405,000**

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The event site is minutes away walking from the College Park-UMD Metro Station (on the Green Line).



MCCARL continued from page 1

World War I, remaining in Paris for an additional year with the Peace Commission. When he returned to the U.S., he enrolled first at Georgetown University and then at the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, graduating in 1924 in the first combined class with the University of Maryland Dental School.

James W. opened his first dental office later that year in the front room of the family home in Baltimore, with his wife Delpha as dental assistant. He had plenty of patients, but during the Depression years, few people had the money to pay for dental care. When he learned that the new town of Greenbelt was looking for a dentist, he applied, assuming that the many residents with federal jobs would be better able to pay for dental services. In late April 1938, he opened an office in 30-A Ridge Road, Greenbelt's first health center, and in June 1938 teamed with Dr. James Dryden, Greenbelt's first medical doctor, in providing free physical examinations for Greenbelt children entering school in the fall, which were given annually into the 1940s, maybe longer.

**Family Moves Here**

The McCarl moved to Greenbelt with their three children – Mary Jean, James T. and Clayton – in the summer of 1938 and quickly became involved in the community. James W. was a charter member of Greenbelt American Legion Post 136 and served as Post Commander during 1940-41. Delpha was a charter member of the Legion Auxiliary and the Greenbelt Woman's Club, and both McCarl were charter members of Greenbelt Community Church. By August 1938, young Mary Jean was a cub reporter gathering neighborhood news for the Greenbelt Cooperator, and she went on to play basketball with the Greenbelt High School girls team several years later. The boys were soon competing in swimming events and in June 1940 played piano in a recital by Mrs. Kinchloe's piano pupils. Young Clayton in particular was a performer, playing (and singing) the role of Tom Sawyer in Greenbelt Elementary School's production of Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn in 1941 (see front-page photo, [greenbeltnewsreview.com/issues/coop19410411.pdf](https://greenbeltnewsreview.com/issues/coop19410411.pdf)) and doing impersonations in a school amateur hour in March 1942.

**Practice Enlarges, Moves**

Both McCarl sons went on to become dentists, graduating from University of Maryland Dental School. James (who'd become known as J. Taylor) got his degree first and joined his father in practice in June 1955, with Clayton following in 1956. By then the dental practice had moved to its present location across the street at 28 Ridge Road. According to Clayton's son Jay McCarl, J. Taylor and his family had moved into 28-A Ridge, and he and his father converted 28-B into a dental office. After Clayton joined the practice, they knocked out the first-floor center walls between 28-A and 28-B to make one big dental office, also removing the tubs in the upstairs bathrooms to create a narrow hallway between the units.

**Next Generations**

James W. practiced dentistry until his death in 1967. By then, the next generation of McCarl dentists had been born, with



Dr. James W. McCarl (center) with sons Dr. Clayton McCarl (left) and Dr. J. Taylor McCarl in June 1956

Clayton's sons Clayton Jr. and Jay joining the practice in 1984 followed by J. Taylor's son David a few years later. Sally McCarl Moore, Clayton Sr.'s daughter, joined the practice in 1980 as a dental hygienist. She and her grandmother Delpha may have inspired other McCarl women to work in dentistry, including Clayton Jr.'s daughter Ashley and J. Taylor's granddaughter Amanda, who both are dental hygienists.

When asked if there was family pressure to pursue dentistry, Jay McCarl responded: "The only pressure to become a dentist that I experienced was when I was a kid, walking around the Center. People would know who I was and ask, 'Are you going to be a dentist like your father and grandfather?' My dad never really put any pressure on me. I just got to college and asked myself, 'What am I going to do?' Dentistry seemed like a good career, as my dad was a respected member of the community and we had a good life."

J. Taylor retired from dentistry in 1987 and Clayton Sr. in 1996. The McCarl practice expanded in 2001 when Clayton Jr., Jay and David McCarl opened a second office in Millersville, Md.

**100 Years of Dentistry**

Jay McCarl detailed some of the advances in dentistry since his grandfather began practice.

In the early years, novocaine had to be prepared each day, as it did not have a stable shelf life, and the syringes were not as thin

and sharp as today's. Dental drills were belt driven and slow, and there was no high-speed suction to remove water from a patient's mouth. Only silver amalgam and gold were available to restore teeth, and James W. cast the gold himself. There was relatively little preventive care, and he often had to provide emergency treatment for toothaches and infections. He also made a lot of dentures.

Premade, pH-buffered novocaine derivatives made anesthesia much easier in the 1960s. The high-speed, water-cooled drill made treatments faster and easier for both dentists and patients. Better filling materials, digital X-rays and intra-oral photography have made it faster and easier to identify problems and to communicate with patients. Preventive periodontal care reduces the incidence of gum disease and loss of teeth. Now, the McCarl practice uses three-dimensional X-ray (cone beam CT scan) to sculpt crowns and implants on the computer and a state-of-the-art milling machine to make crowns the same day.

Probably the biggest challenge of the past 100 years was the recent Covid pandemic, which closed the McCarl Dental Practice for a few months except for emergency treatments and required the dental staff to armor themselves with personal protective equipment to protect patients and themselves against the virus. A story in the July 16, 2020, issue of the News Review details

other changes to the dental office and patient care practices that had to be made during the pandemic.

**The Future**

David McCarl has retired from dentistry, and there are no next-generation McCarl dentists to replace Clayton Jr. and Jay when they retire. But Jay McCarl says: "The practice is in great hands, with Dr. Dianna Lee and Dr. Richard Duarte as younger partners manning the ship."



Fred Edwards at the Cunningham Falls State Park in Thurmont, Md., on August 28, 2024

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Dr. James W. McCarl treats a patient in his Greenbelt office in 1942.



TRANSPORT continued from page 1

ride, Zong now carpools with some other parents to drive them to the school, which is about 15 minutes away.

Chani Adams has a child attending an out-of-boundary school and “after a few bumps the first week it’s mostly working well for us,” she says. Her child has an hour-long ride each way. Taking the bus they arrive “right at or after” the school’s daily start time she finds.

Vanessa Cruz has a daughter at Fairmont Heights High School in a regional program. She’s found transportation has been difficult since the first day. Her daughter isn’t picked up on time and sometimes the bus doesn’t show up. Cruz says her daughter gets home three hours after dismissal in the evening, calling the situation “ridiculous,” and says her daughter is missing too much school due to the transportation challenges.

Kateri Baker’s children ride the bus from central Greenbelt to Dora Kennedy French Immersion (DKFI) on Greenbelt Road. “The driver has been very consistent and besides overcrowding the kids have no complaints,” says Baker. Baker’s children are car riders in the afternoon but another family attending DKFI switched to a different afternoon route due to problems with their nearest one.

Holly Leon-Lierman reported the morning bus transporting her child from Greenbelt Elementary to Greenbelt Middle School has been great so far.

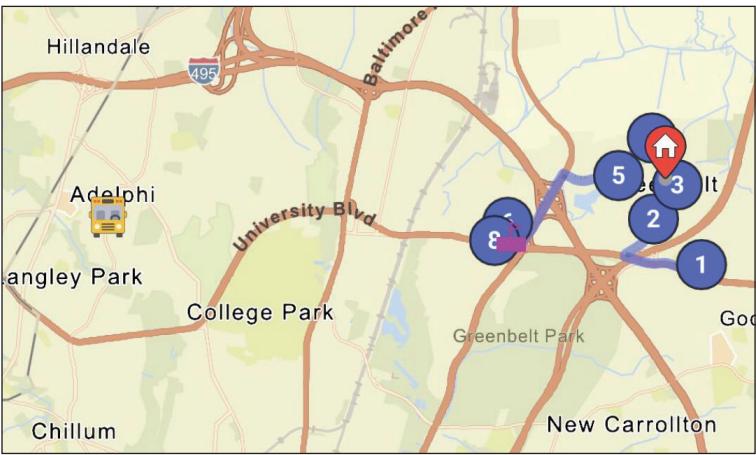
The Jenkins family has had less luck with theirs. “My daughter’s bus is unpredictable. In the morning, it gets her to school between 10 and 30-plus minutes after school starts. So naturally, we are mostly driving in the morning,” says Piri Jenkins. The afternoon route seemed to be working well but last week Jenkins had to drive to the school; the bus had still not arrived an hour and a half after dismissal. “The only solution we really have is that we are trying to get her a driver’s license,” says Jenkins.

Jenkins’ other child attends a charter school without county transportation. Traffic around that school is terrible, she reports, as everyone is driving and also contending with Purple Line construction.

StopFinder

The StopFinder App is intended to enable the tracking of school buses, down to their GPS location, so parents and schools know in real time where a bus is on its route. That kind of technology can help a family make it to the stop when the bus comes early and see where their child’s bus is when they’re late getting home from school.

At the school board meeting in March when transportation changes were announced, several board members voiced concerns and confusion that amidst so much change the administration would keep the app parents have been complaining about for years (see the April 4 issue). The administration insisted they expected the app would work this year.



The StopFinder App shows a bus route from Central Greenbelt to Greenbelt Middle School and Dora Kennedy French Immersion School and to the left the bus it tracks for that route each morning, which is not the bus that travels the route.

So far StopFinder is performing better for some Greenbelt families but for others the difficulties continue, making it unreliable and unusable. Just getting access to the app was a challenge for some. One Greenbelt parent, who asked we withhold her name, sent multiple emails, put in a Transportation Resolution Service request and called her child’s school before she finally received an invitation to create an account. The app is tied to families’ accounts in Synergy, the new family portal that replaced SchoolMax late in the summer, but, for this parent, creating her Synergy account didn’t trigger an invitation to StopFinder as it was supposed to. Now that parent says she has access to StopFinder, but the routes drawn do not match the ones the buses take and the assigned bus she can track in the morning is the incorrect one, taking another route. Fortunately, unlike the app, the bus itself has had pretty good performance for their family this year. Nicola Bless says she’s also having problems with the app and reached out to PGCPSTransportation more than once before school started but has yet to receive a response. Another family entered an

address change in Synergy and uploaded the documentation, but even after contacting the school, their address is still outdated, linking their children to a bus route for their previous home, so they, too, can’t use the app. However, Adams told the News Review that StopFinder is working well for her family and prevents them from missing the bus. Jessica Blacksten has a child at Greenbelt Middle School and has found the bus runs 10-20 minutes later than scheduled in the afternoon but the app seems to be working. Jenkins also says the bus tracking is working better than previous years. Meanwhile, the Baker children’s bus has been consistent but the app hasn’t. “The driver let us know that she was planning on arriving consistently 15 minutes earlier than the StopFinder app claimed and the StopFinder app wasn’t working anyway so I haven’t looked at it since the second day of school,” Baker told the News Review. Though there was no school this Monday in Prince George’s County, StopFinder showed a regular bus schedule for the day, as it does for next Friday, September 27, when there will be a three-hour early dismissal.

Greenbelt’s Scott Borg Plans Guitar Festival for Sept. 28

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

If you’ve never been to a guitar concert before, the Maryland Guitar Festival Concerto Night on Saturday, September 28 is an opportunity you don’t want to miss, says Greenbelter and acclaimed classical guitarist Scott Borg. The event will take place at Montgomery College’s Cultural Arts Center in Silver Spring. It will offer the chance to experience high caliber performances but also music that he says you would recognize right away if he were to hum the melody of the main movements of the concertos by composer Joaquín Rodrigo that will be performed. “These are very, very famous pieces,” Borg told the News Review, and the concerto night will be a great entry point for music lovers to experience the guitar, as well as hear performers at the top of the field.

Borg has played at Carnegie Hall, the Westminster Kennel Club “Best in Show,” and international venues in Mexico, Peru, Australia and others. He is a faculty member at Montgomery College and the artistic director of the Mid-Maryland Guitar Festival. Before Covid he would coordinate a three-day festival at Montgomery College – three days of concerts, workshops and outreach and guest ensembles. Over six years the festival grew from an afternoon performance to a one-day festival, to a multiday festival, gaining popularity



Greenbelt’s Scott Borg will be performing Concierto de Aranjuez at the Maryland Guitar Festival Concerto Night this month.

and size until the pandemic. The September 28 event is the beginning of a return to that festival offering and Borg hopes it will become a multiday festival again next year.

Festival Offerings

During the day there will be workshops and guitar-related activities in which attendees can participate. There will also be a master class in which three talented students will be performing and receive feedback, in what Borg describes as a “public lesson.” Local guitar builder, Bill Fonvielle, will lead a discussion about guitars, different woods (the difference between cedar and spruce, for example), different formations and so forth. Fonvielle will be bringing some different

See GUITAR, page 11

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# Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred September 9-15, 2024. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an enquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email [pd@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:pd@greenbeltmd.gov). Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Greenbelt Police Department reported four domestic incidents, one involving an arrest; and two mental health diversions. Two missing persons were reported: a parent reported that their daughter was missing after she left the residence and was expected back later that day. Her location is showing as out of state. A juvenile awarded to the state fled from their caretaker.

### Armed Person

On September 12 near 7619 Hanover Parkway, two males were involved in an argument at the gas station. One of the men threatened to shoot the other before fleeing the scene.

### Attempted Robbery

On September 13 near Ora Glen Court and Ora Glen Drive, a victim stated that while he was riding his scooter, suspects approached him in a vehicle and demanded his scooter. The victim fled while one of the suspects chased him on foot.

### Disorderly

On September 12 near 6000 Greenbelt Road, officers were flagged down in reference to a dispute. Upon arrival, it was determined that an individual attempted to pepper spray a security officer.

### DUI

On September 10 near Kenilworth Avenue and Route 495, officers responded to a vehicle that went off the roadway and ended up in a ditch. After making contact with the driver, it was determined that he was driving under the influence. He was arrested and charged with a DUI.

### Gunshots

On September 15 near 7619 Hanover Parkway, callers said that they heard gunshots; suspects

fled the area in a vehicle at a high rate of speed. The area was searched and two vehicles and an apartment window were found damaged.

### Suspicious Person

On September 15 near 11 Crescent Road, a caller said they saw a male expose himself in the area. Video footage revealed that no exposure happened; a lewd gesture may have occurred.

### Theft

On September 11 near 6400 Cherrywood Lane, a victim reported that his delivered package was stolen from his residence. On September 12 near 5910 Greenbelt Road, a store manager observed on camera a male with a black backpack enter the store and steal several items. On September 13 near 7580 Greenbelt Road, a store employee reported that someone walked into the store and stole a musical instrument.

### Vehicle Crimes

#### Stolen Vehicles Recovered

On September 9 near 4 Pinecrest Court, officers located an abandoned vehicle; a check revealed that the vehicle was listed as stolen by the Bowie Police. On September 10 near Ivy Lane and Turner Lane, officers located a vehicle in the roadway with ignition damage; a check revealed that it was reported stolen through Prince George's County Police. On September 12 near 8150 Lakecrest Drive, an officer observed a Hyundai in the parking lot with its rear window broken and ignition damage. A check showed that the vehicle was reported stolen in Washington, D.C. On September 13 near 6150 Springhill Terrace, a 2012 silver Hyundai Sonata reported

stolen by Washington, D.C., police was located with ignition damage.

### Stolen Vehicles

On September 9 near 8000 Greenbelt Station Parkway, a victim reported that her silver 2021 Chevy Malibu (Md. 6EP6020) had been stolen. On September 11 near 139 Westway, a victim reported their 2020 Hyundai Elantra (Va. TNP9533), stolen from the parking lot. On September 12 near 9120 Edmonston Terrace, a victim reported that her 2020 Hyundai Elantra (Md. 9EZ6933) was missing from the parking lot. On September 13 near 6005 Cherrywood Court, a victim's 2020 silver Hyundai Elantra (Md. 8EC4969) was stolen from the parking lot; near 6411 Ivy Lane, a victim reported that one of his company fleet vehicles was stolen; and near 8150 Lakecrest Drive, a victim reported that her 2016 Hyundai Tucson (Md. 1DC3924) was stolen from the parking lot.

### Theft From Auto

On September 9 near 9102 Edmonston Court, a victim reported that the tags were stolen from his vehicle. On September 11 near 7825 Mandan Road, a victim's vehicle window was broken and his disabled parking placard was stolen; near 8150 Lakecrest Drive, multiple vehicles were vandalized and broken into. On September 13 near 7200 Hanover Parkway, a victim's vehicle window was broken and his backpack was stolen.



## GUITAR continued from page 10

guitars, which Borg will play for attendees to hear the differences. They'll also have the chance to play them. Then there'll be an open mic for attendees to perform in a welcoming and friendly atmosphere, says Borg. The festival day will culminate with the evening performance of the concertos.

### Creating an Orchestra

It's very rare that there's an entire evening dedicated to guitar concertos, says Borg, and the two concertos that will be performed are probably the most famous in the guitar world. Putting together an orchestra for the event has taken considerable work. "We've assembled an all-star cast of string players from the local area," says Borg. Some play in symphonies and some come from philharmonics in the area and most of the others come from local military bands. "It's been a lot of fun," laughs Borg,

after describing the considerable work creating the orchestra. "We're not playing with just say an established orchestra. We've created this orchestra specifically for this event and it's something we're hoping we can do every single year."

### Popular Instrument

"Most civilizations have had some form of guitar-related instrument ... We all listen to folk music and pop and rock and roll and stuff like that ... We're constantly immersed with guitar." It's an instrument that appeals to everyone, and if it's your first time hearing classical guitar this would be a good introduction, believes Borg. "You'll be hearing two of the most iconic, idiomatic famous guitar pieces ever written," he enthuses. Though classical music sometimes has a reputation of being "too high brow," this music is very recognizable and accessible, says Borg.

A youth ensemble from Loudoun County will open the concert with "something really fun to start off things," says Borg. Loudoun County and Fairfax County in Virginia have two of the biggest guitar programs in America within their middle and high schools, Borg says, with collectively around 8,000 guitar students between them. Each class has a fulltime guitar teacher and there's a really big investment in guitar within the area, he says, a model Borg would love to see adopted in Maryland.

See GUITAR, page 13



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# Council Moves Public Comment On Noncitizen Voting to Sept. 23

by Michael Zeliff

On September 9 the Greenbelt City Council discussed the next steps for a potential charter amendment allowing noncitizen residents to vote in local elections in Greenbelt. A public hearing had been scheduled for September 16, but Councilmember Kristen Weaver moved to replace the public forum with public comment at council's regular meeting on Monday, September 23.

Mayor Emmett Jordan and Councilmember Silke Pope argued changing the city charter, which stipulates that only U.S. citizens can vote in Greenbelt elections, demands careful review, so a separate public hearing is called for to provide plenty of time for all opinions to be heard. Jordan noted that only 3,000 of Greenbelt's 25,000 residents participated in the advisory vote some 10 months ago. Jordan also argued that council should have a block of time between the public hearing and regular meeting when it will vote on allowing noncitizen voting in Greenbelt elections.

Weaver, along with Councilmembers Jenni Pompei and Amy

Knesel, argued contrary to Jordan and Pope that all opinions will still be heard if the hearing is made part of the regular meeting and, furthermore, that this change of schedule will require all interested parties to attend only one instead of two different meetings.

Resident John Appiah-Duffell strongly voiced his support for the charter amendment and pointed out that residents already had participated in the prior advisory vote that supported, on a 2 to 1 basis, allowing noncitizen residents the right to vote in city elections. Resident Amanda Jennings commented that council should respect voters and Bill Orleans claimed that residents had in fact already voiced their support some 34 months previously. Holly Leon-Lierman, participating online, stated that she had voted for the measure and council was belaboring the issue. She promised that her family will be present in support on September 23. Council then voted 5-2 in favor of moving the public hearing to the regular meeting with Jordan and Pope opposed.

## Voting by Noncitizen Residents

The ordinance defines the conditions that must be met by noncitizen residents of Greenbelt to vote in city elections. It stipulates in part:

A person who is a resident of Greenbelt but not eligible to register with Prince George's County because of the person's citizenship status may register with the City Clerk's office to vote in city elections. The person must be at least 16 years old and must file, at least 21 days before the election in which they first wish to vote, a registration application, and either: (1) A document that shows residence in Greenbelt, including without limitation a student's identifying school paper, a Maryland driver's license or similar government paper, a utility bill, or a mortgage or lease or similar paper showing an interest in property; or (2) An affidavit in which the person states that they reside in Greenbelt but have no document showing their residence.





Except that these individuals must apply 21 days prior to a city election, like citizens, there would be no minimum amount of time that noncitizen residents must live in Greenbelt. To vote in local elections residents must be domiciled within the corporate limits of the City of Greenbelt as of the date of registration, be 16 years of age, not have been convicted of a felony, or have completed a court-ordered sentence of imprisonment, including any term of parole or probation for the conviction and not be under guardianship for mental disability.



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MEETING continued from page 1

hire 150 staff through June 2025. Since it typically loses 40 staff annually, by July 2025 it could still be 140 under full strength.

Greenbelt VFD President Greg Gigliotti and Pete Mellits, a Bowie resident and 37-year volunteer, noted the importance of the career/volunteer partnership. Gigliotti and Greenbelt Councilmember Amy Knesel asked attendees to imagine working a physically and mentally demanding job for up to 24 hours and then having to stay on the job. Mellits asked the county to improve support to volunteers.

Crickets, Frustration

Approximately 80 residents of the cities attended the meeting, including Greenbelt, Berwyn Heights and College Park Mayors Emmett Jordan, Tiffany Papanikolas and Fazlul Kabir, city managers and councilmembers, County Councilmember Eric Olson and representatives of County Councilmember Ingrid Watson and State Senator Alonzo Washington.

In June city officials began asking the county for data to help understand the decision and for a joint task force. Papanikolas said she expected to share data and ideas, provide feedback and agree on an answer but “instead we’ve been met with crickets.” Greenbelt City Manager Josué Salmerón added, “We wanted stakeholders at the table to find a solution to provide real relief to our firefighters and provide the public safety services our residents deserve and expect.” This was reinforced by Jordan

who said, “The difference in response time of a minute is the difference between life and death.”

The cities filed a temporary restraining order against County Executive Angela Alsobrooks and Green to pause the plan for discussion and resolution, but a judge allowed the plan to proceed pending the suit.

Kabir said Green agreed to some requests that didn’t happen. She was invited to but did not attend community meetings including September 12, sending others instead. Greenbelt Community Development Corporation President Susan Walker told the crowd she was “really offended she refused our request.”

Officials said they received insufficient information to justify the plan, including a 2022 report based on 2016-2020 data. They argue data provided this summer about the plan’s effect on



PGFD Public Information Director and Chief Communication Officer Alan Doubleday (left), who responded to requests for PGFD response time data transparency that “data ... is not my strong suit.” Here he responds to a question from an audience member.

overtime and response time is insufficient to avoid worry over the reported ALS response time, which increased in July and began decreasing in August.

Greenbelter Melissa Ehrenreich said to Doubleday, “It’s really difficult to understand the quality of care now. What is your plan to help us understand

the data? We shouldn’t have to pull it out of you. ... Other counties are able to see incidents. ... You need to do a better job of sharing information with us. To create trust, you need to help us understand your information.” For example, Anne Arundel County posts aggregated data monthly, viewable by council district, time of day and response type, though without response time.

Doubleday said he can report data but not pull it, referring to data analysts and Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) processes. When Ehrenreich again asked for data provided as in other counties, he said, “It’s a lot of data,” at which Greenbelter Laura Moore exclaimed: “It’s your job!” He suggested Ehrenreich talk with him afterward on what she’d like to see made accessible, though immediately followed that offer by citing other offices and the FOIA process for obtaining data.

Papanikolas said “We’ve been waiting since June.” Elsewhere in the meeting Doubleday described around-the-clock data collection and weekly data reviews. When the News Review later asked him about aggregating and anonymizing the data for public access he cited FOIA as the process and healthcare privacy as reason to not release it.

Moore told the News Review the decision seems arbitrary. She believes Greenbelters have a right to know the information behind the decisions. “I feel our public safety is being compromised and we aren’t being given enough information,” she says.

Resident Velma Kahn wrote “the thing to fault Chief Green and the Fire Department for would be authoritarianism, disrespect and lack of collaboration with the local governments and fire programs affected, and it would seem cowardice – no excuse for not showing up at the meeting.”

Worries, Warnings, Pleas

Gigliotti and Greenbelters Kathy Bartolomeo and Bill Cornett painted a picture of emergency service demands from a local dense population, Metro and MARC stations, NASA Goddard, the University of Maryland, Route 1 development, the Beltway and Parkway, and pending FBI and Bureau of Engraving and Printing facilities. Greenbelt resident Mara Hemminger questioned the wisdom of removing career staff from both the Berwyn

See MEETING, page 13



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MEETING continued from page 12

Station 835 First Due Call Types & Response Times June 30 through August 31				
Call Type Category	Incident Responses 2023	Average Response Time 2023	Incident Responses 2024	Average Response Time 2024
Advanced Life Support	Total: 145	Average: 5:22	Total: 159	Average: 6:49
Basic Life Support	Total: 138	Average: 7:15	Total: 147	Average: 6:34
Fire	Total: 26	Average: 3:52	Total: 103	Average: 4:17
Non-Emergency	Total: 31	Average: 4:43	Total: 27	Average: 1:11
Rescue	Total: 203	Average: 3:25	Total: 283	Average: 3:59

Response times in July-August 2023 compared with July-August 2024, as provided by Prince George’s County Fire Department on September 12

Heights and Greenbelt stations.

Mellits said removing daywork career staff from a service model built because volunteers aren’t available for daywork and thinking it will have no effect “is a poor choice and inaccurate decision by the person in charge of public safety.”

Beltsville activist Karen Coakley shared this year’s Beltsville VFD experience when PGFD threatened to remove career staff if volunteers didn’t commit to address facility issues before PGFD identified the issues. Coakley said though grants and plans are now in place, PGFD is still pressuring Beltsville volunteers to sign agreements that could give Beltsville-purchased assets to PGFD, and spoke of new career removal rumors. She said, “I’m disgusted with the way these communities have been treated. We’ve got to stay in this together.”

Ehrenreich cited rumors that Greenbelt’s career staff aren’t coming back, asking Doubleday to “clearly state that’s not the case, that this is temporary and they will be restored.” Nearby Branchville career staff were removed in 2013 and never restored. Another attendee asked for a commitment to immediate reassessment if response times get too close to eight minutes. Former Greenbelt mayor Judith Davis said she worries Greenbelt will lose its fire station altogether. Doubleday did not ease concerns, saying the fire chief and administration will decide at the end of September about when personnel need to come back. He said eight minutes is the standard response time. Greenbelt Councilmember Rodney Roberts later said, “The county wants us to accept this eight-minute number. [Gigliotti] said our response time was six minutes [before] so why should we accept eight minutes?”

Davis warned the fire chief, county council and county executive:

“Whatever is decided, you need to include municipalities in this discussion, otherwise it’s not going to work. You’ll anger a lot of people. You have got to include the municipalities so we can all work together to solve this problem and so we can figure out how to get rid of the shortage and build up the staff we need.”

**Payment for What Service?**

Councilmember Amy Knesel shared concerns that Greenbelt residents pay taxes for emergency services that aren’t being delivered, and Jordan noted the city has purchased equipment worth \$2-3 million for the station that is being less used.

**Unique Challenges**

Amid nationwide shortages of teachers, school bus drivers, police and fire and EMS staff, Olson, Coakley, Mellits and others described challenges specific to Prince George’s. Coakley cited long onboarding processes required of career and volunteer staff (up to six months of interviews, exams and background checks before training), saying Prince George’s loses volunteers and career candidates to other counties while waiting. Mellits pleaded for officials to engage the fire department to reduce these hurdles.

**Cities’ Efforts So Far**

Officials said they requested county data to understand the problem and a task force to jointly address it. They obtained a career-staffed ALS unit for Greenbelt and at city expense put Automated Emergency Defibrillators in all city buildings and several police cars per shift. They appealed for engagement from Alsobrooks and Green. They said they have advocated privately with county councilmembers and the Prince George’s Annapolis delegation, and publicly by posting press releases and materials and holding community meetings. Olson

said he repeatedly tells Green that staff return “had better be the case.” The cities are continuing the lawsuit and on September 17 a judge denied the county’s motion to dismiss it. Salmerón said Greenbelt will write Green to thank her for efforts so far, describe them as inadequate, restate “our fair requests,” ask for an October meeting and reiterate the cities’ desire for partnership instead of litigation.

Jordan asked Doubleday whether cities or volunteers will have input in the reassessment. “How can we participate, and when is it going to happen?” Doubleday said, “I’m sure [the chief and administration] will communicate with you.”

**Call for Residents’ Voices**

Jordan said, “We need each and every one of you to contact the county administration to make sure they know we are engaged and we are watching,” before the reassessment that Doubleday said will occur at the end of September.

Some residents have already contacted Green, Alsobrooks, county councilmembers and the Annapolis delegation. Salmerón told the News Review that during the week of September 16, Greenbelt will prepare language for the city website for residents to use when contacting officials. Ehrenreich established a petition that received almost 850 signatures by September 17.

Residents were also encouraged to talk to their neighbors and friends to speak up to protect the emergency services they depend on, services they may not think about until they need them and they aren’t there.

**Your Station**

Attendees were encouraged to volunteer at the station, which needs operational and administrative support. For operational volunteers, the free training is rigorous and the work is physically and mentally challenging, but volunteers say their hearts are in it. Greenbelt recruitment

Schrom Hills Poetry in the Garden Honors Ric Gordon



From left, John Drago, Effie Levner, Madeleine Jepsen, Francis Stedman, Laura Cato, Nirvana Sengupta and Emmett Jordan

On Sunday, September 8, Poetry in the Garden had a dynamic, interactive meeting. The first session of the meeting focused on reading from Ric Gordon’s collection of poems.

Members also discussed Gordon as an individual and his contributions to the community. After a short break, the second session of the meeting focused on individual reading and discussion.



Two bees flit around New England aster flowers.

Reduction in Overtime

PGFD reports a 81.2 percent reduction in mandatory hold-overs/callbacks since the staffing change.

June 30 to August 31, 2023 – 13,903 hours

June 30 to August 31, 2024 – 2,614.75 hours

Resources

**September 12 meeting videos**  
City of Greenbelt video of September 12 meeting:  
<https://www.facebook.com/cityofgreenbelt>  
WUSA Channel 9 video report:  
<https://tinyurl.com/2s3zuyxk>

**Event Timeline and Related Documents**  
<https://www.greenbeltmd.gov/government/police/greenbelt-volunteer-fire-department>  
  
<https://tinyurl.com/9ezpn43c>

**Community Petition - Bring Back Our Firefighters!**  
<https://chng.it/9bHH64NvF8>

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GUITAR continued from page 11

**The Venue**

The Cultural Arts Center is a beautiful venue, says Borg. The capacity is 500 people. “At least in my view, it’s one of the best places in the DMV to do performances and that’s one of the reasons we wanted to do it there as well ... A monumental night wants a monumental venue.”

Though Greenbelt doesn’t have a similarly monumental venue, “the guitar can play in these grand halls ... the essence of the guitar is that it’s a very intimate instrument ... it is perfectly designed for really, really

small things and small venues,” says Borg, who would one day love to have a concert at the New Deal Café.

**Festival Details**

The daytime activities at the festival are free: noon to 1 p.m., Warmup and Technique Workshop; 1 to 2:30 p.m., Masterclass with Colin Davin; 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., Guitar Building with Bill Fonvielle; and 3:30 to 5 p.m., Open Mic.

The concert is at 7 p.m. For ticket details visit [tix.com/ticket-sales/MCCAC/6907](https://tix.com/ticket-sales/MCCAC/6907).

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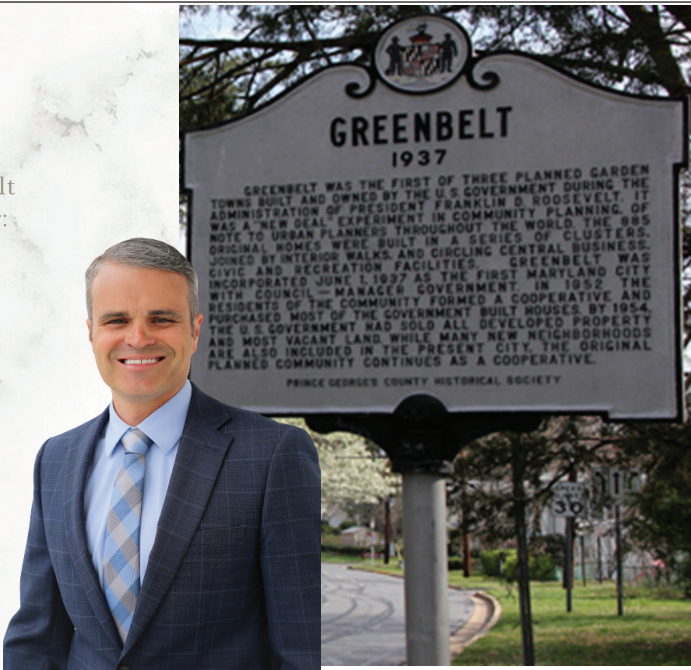


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# Sports

## ERHS Girls Soccer: Varsity Unbeaten, JV Has 2-1 Record

by Patrick Gleason

As fall nears on the calendar, the Eleanor Roosevelt High School Raiders girls soccer team prepared for the changing of seasons with a dominant opening week and a half. After their 8-0 season-opening win over Bladensburg, they blanked Parkdale 5-0 on September 12 behind a hat trick from senior Jada Savage; then, sophomore Gabrielle Johnson matched her with three goals in a 7-0 triumph over High Point on September 16. Junior Claudia van der Have scored the most memorable goal of the afternoon. After fullback Alena Beckmann accessed the endline, she lofted a cross toward the back post where van der Have headed it home. The Raiders continued to pass efficiently throughout the contest, while Savage tallied two more goals and sophomore Ariana Cruz added one. Senior Nikki Lilja has

remained untested in goal as the Raiders have controlled possession in each contest.

### Junior Varsity

The junior varsity finished its busy first week with a 2-1 record after defeating Bladensburg and Parkdale and falling to Brooke-wood. Though they conceded two early goals in the defeat they applied pressure for the remainder of the game and Zeala Tantoh snuffed out all Brooke-wood threats. Freshman Morgan Parks has infused the already potent Raider attack with speed. Now the junior varsity tackles a challenging week including away contests with St. Mary's Ryken and Elizabeth Seton. But with the threat of sophomore Julia Visnic, who has scored five goals in three games, the Raiders are prepared for all autumn can offer.



Raiders teammates celebrate another goal.



Freshman Kyndall Hogans and the Raiders have been calm and collected during their 3-0 start.

- Photos by Vanessa van der Have

### Call for Sports News

Do you have Greenbelt sports news to share? We welcome your photos and stories at [editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com).



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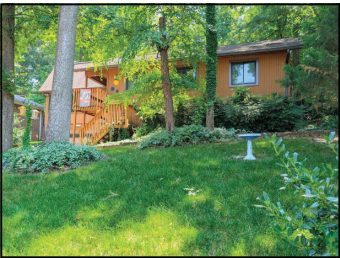


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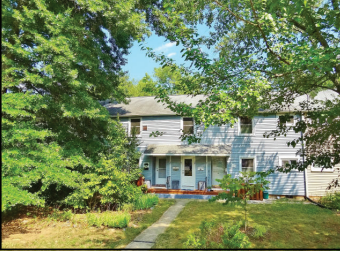
3 Bedroom Townhome Large, fenced backyard that opens onto protected woodlands. Remodeled from top to bottom, opened kitchen & more.



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# 21st Greenbelt Blues Festival Says: Blues Alive and Well

by Diya Shah

Music, laughter and love filled the air as folks from across Maryland convened at Roosevelt Center and the New Deal Café for the 21st Greenbelt Blues Festival on Saturday, September 14, a gorgeous end-of-summer day. This year marked the Festival’s full return, after cancellations and social distancing requirements in prior years due to Covid. The joy in the sunny courtyard was palpable as live music once again brought the community together.

Attendees were not limited to only Greenbelt residents – the Blues Festival attracts people from all over the state, with couples, families and lone attendees coming in from D.C., Baltimore, Annapolis and more to enjoy the day’s festivities. The Festival showed no signs of slowing down as the crowds continued to grow as the day breezed on.

First up was a blues-themed yoga class, followed by a drum circle that drew quite a crowd. The rest of the day consisted of back-to-back performances from a variety of bands, keeping the music going well into the night.

The Festival also hosted booths with local vendors selling their art, jewelry and crafts.

Meg Haney and Julie Winters – members of Friends of New Deal Café Arts (FONDCA), the organization that sponsors the

Festival – said their goal is to “get the arts into the community in a bigger capacity.” They do so through annual events like this one along with highlighting local artists’ art inside the New Deal Café. Haney and Winters have been organizing, or “just helping out,” as they humbly said, with the Blues Festival for over eight years. Winters said her favorite part of the festival is just “the good community vibe” and Haney simply added, “Everyone is happy.”

Jasz (giving her first name only), another organizer of the Festival and a lover of live music, said each year features a different lineup of bands and acts. As the Festival has grown, she said, they have been able to branch out and give more bands a chance to participate.

Musician Bobby Thompson has played the Festival once before and returned this year with his band Blues City Shakedown to play a mid-afternoon set that had plenty of people on their feet and grooving. Following his set, Thompson talked about the sticking power of the blues and why he likes playing at community festivals. “It’s so cool,” he said. “When people are dancing right in front of you, you can like almost talk to them while you’re playing.”

Above all, the Festival is a heartwarming community affair. Greenbelt City Councilmember Jenni Pompei has been attending the Festival ever since she moved to Greenbelt and said she loves how it pulls together such a great cross-section of the community. “[The festival] is a great sort of intergenerational, interracial gathering of our community,” she said.

Law Hall, a resident of Lanham, has been coming with her husband and pets for over a decade. Her husband loves the music and she loves the pet-friendly community and beautiful weather. “It’s not pretentious. It’s very down to earth. It’s a mixture of all kinds of people, it’s very diverse. I love it,” said Hall. Reflecting, she added, “It’s not hard to come every year.” It’s a sentiment that this reporter – and likely many others, judging by the big smiles throughout the day – can easily get behind.

*Diya Shah is a student at University of Maryland’s Philip Merrill College of Journalism writing for the News Review.*



The Greenbelt Honk! Situation plays a quick set in between acts, prompting the crowd in a singalong of Come Together by The Beatles.



Julie Cymek of Sweet Leda leads a conga line.



Bobby Thompson sings and plays the guitar to an attentive crowd as his band, Blues City Shakedown jams along.



Tribute for virtuoso harmonica blues musician Phil Wiggins. From left, Chris Sprankle on harmonica, Phil’s partner Judy LaPrade singing and Ian B. Walters on keyboard



Gordon Sterling and The People Band



Bobby Thompson’s Blues City Shakedown perform in front of the crowd.